

14
A True COPY of a

LETTER

FROM

His Majesty's Camp

BETWEEN

Mecklin and Vilvoord

IN

FLANDERS.

July 22.

Written by a Gentleman of Quality in the Army, to a Friend of his in London.

S I R,

7. Aug. 1693.

ON Tuesday last, being the 18th. Instant, the King immediately after Dinner, received Advice that some French Squadrons began to appear on the Hills before the Camp: Also that morning we heard that the French were in Motion, though it was not known which way. That morning I had rid out with the King to the end of the Left Wing of our Camp, and I heard his Majesty ask, What are those Squadrons, seeing some at a good distance, and which no body else would take notice of; but about three his Majesty got on Horse-back, and soon disposed the Army into its due order, for receiving the Enemy if they advanc'd. All that Evening we beheld the Enemy gently approaching towards us; and our Army as well as theirs lay that night under their Arms in the open Field, without Tents or any refreshment. His Majesty also lay that night in one of his Coaches in his Clothes; the next morn-

ing we beheld the French Squadrons and Batalions nearer to us, expecting to receive them from the Ground where we had posted our selves, and where we had towards the Right cast up a good Trench in the night time. It is since said that the French did little expect to find us there in the morning, but thought we should retreat in the night, because their Numbers were so much superior to ours; for they were esteemed to be 80000. whereas our Army, after the Duke of Wirtemberg's Detachment, and 10 Batalions more to Liège from Hoperting Camp, was not thought to have been above 45000. which Number in the Muster-Roll seldom gives above 40000 effective Men, as some tell me. About half an hour after Four that morning our Cannon began to play, and in a little time they returned upon us, both of us playing from different Batteries till after eight, and then our small Shot began to Fire, and we drove the French out of a Village they had possessed before

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a Village they had possessed before us; which Attack was led on by the Duke of *Frisland*; then they came on more towards the Right, but seeing our Trenches that we had cast up, they retreated; after this their main Attack was on our Right Wing, which was continued for about five Hours, and our Men often repulsed them with great bravery and resolution; but they still supplying their Men with fresh Battalions to support them as they drew off, or filed before ours; and our Foot being at last spent for want of more reserves, and some Horse on our side not behaving themselves so well as they should, the *Stenob* at last broke in upon us, and our Men gave way, so that we lost the Field of Battle, and retreated in some disorder, having left many of our Cannon behind us.

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